Dear Jim, Quin Shea's yesterday's letter and my response 3/3/78

If he can quote an old friend of mine I can quote myself to you. Something like if we have a short 2x4 and the head is on a very big jackass we have to wait until we force the head down before we swing at it.

The head is coming down. And I think it would be better if we do not have to swing.

Time will tell.

We've had 8 inch es of snow - yyyfine and oh boy if the wind gets up! So I've been shovelling, beginning from the back door. I'll have to do as much of this as I can now that it has stopped snowing. That time will give me time to think a bit more.

I'm not going to reread his letter now but I do believe he has confessed that except under some circumstances there is no such thing as a real review of what the FBI does. They reverse the FBI half the time - where they look at a record. But where they don't? And this means almost 100,000 JFK pages. Make a note of this for any 2155 appeal and other uses.

I don't think he lies. I think he is overly-dedicated and under-informed, as in not appearing to know that his office is supposed to have reviewed every King record I've received.

You will find other unintended confessions I did not call to his attention.

Unintended? Astounding!

There were reasons. I could have responded to them without justifying criticism. But I think he'll accept more from a fellow lawyer. And I think he may be willing to be more concilliatory. It serves all interests if we can work solutions out where they are possible.

First please take up with him those initial 40,001 FBI JFK pages. If he declines suggest that he get a transcript of the Gesell hearing and ask him, if he says he sees nothing in it, if he'd like me to show him what is in it and what it can mean to the Department if I have to use it in court, to get those records.

If he does not agree we lose but a few minutes. If he does agree we can move ahead with what I can show him. That simple. And if he is any kind of human being he'll understand that it is a real favor not to beat them all with that 2x4.

There is some progress in this. He has at least seen this 2x4 I've been talking about. I take his recent letters as indication he does not like it. And that he is not used to what we did to him in C.A.77-2155.

Best,